
UNITED STATES CONSUMER LAW

ATTORNEY FEE SURVEY REPORT

2013-2014



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**United States Consumer Law
Attorney Fee Survey Report 2013-2014**

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This work is dedicated to the private and public practice members of the Consumer Law bar and the Judges who decide Consumer Law cases across the United States and its territories, all of whom tirelessly dedicate their careers to helping people find justice every day in our legal system. Without their support and participation the research for this publication would not have been possible.

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1. Introduction

This report publishes the results of the United States Consumer Law Attorney Fee Survey for 2013-2014. Survey results reported here cover every region, state, metropolitan area and non-metropolitan area in the United States and its Territories. This revision on May 22, 2015 corrects two minor typographical errors and adds comparative information.

Several changes in format and content are introduced with this edition of the Survey Report that the reader may notice. One of those is that there is no longer a separate section for the hourly rates by years in practice tables. Those tables are now included under Section 5, the Region Tables. The title of that section was also shortened to indicate that all tables applicable to the Region are placed there. This change enables easier analysis of all data on a regional approach, rather than having to consult two different sections of the Report to obtain data applicable to one region.

After this introductory section, the results of this survey are reported in six sections.

Section 2 of this Survey Report is the Summary Profile of the Typical US Consumer Law Attorney, a collective approach to the entire survey results which yields a detailed picture of key aspects of the typical US Consumer Law practitioner in the United States and its territories. It is based on the survey results as a whole and may serve as a benchmark for regional, state and metropolitan comparisons by the reader.

Section 3 contains the Regional Summary Profiles analyses which reports a summary profile of the typical Consumer Law attorney in each of the 12 regions in the survey. It provides a collective approach to each region's survey results, which yields a more detailed summary picture of key aspects of the typical US Consumer Law practitioner in each survey Region. Although more detailed localized data is provided for the first time with this year's Report, the larger viewpoint on the data can only be represented by the Regional view's broader perspective. The Regional Summary Profile also is the only portion of the survey data that aligns with the only other similar survey known to exist, although it is not specific to Consumer Law.

Section 4 contains the Region Average Table for All Firms. This section reports the regional average hourly rates according to small and large firm classification and includes both attorney rates and paralegal rates. This table gives a broad overview at a glance with easy side by side comparisons of key data. It also is the only part of the survey that allows the reader to see the relative survey participation from each of the 12 surveyed regions.

Section 5 includes the Region Tables. These tables combine those sections that were previously reported in two sections, the Averages and Medians Tables and the Years in Practice Tables. Included in the two separate tables in this section of the Report, on a regional basis, is results of key survey questions and the average hourly rates according to only the number of years an attorney has been practicing law. It was deemed appropriate to combine the two types of tables so that all data for any one Region would be in one place in this Report, for the reader's easy analysis and use.

Section 6 contains data for 29 selected states and the District of Columbia. These selections were made based chiefly on the basis of their larger population count. Together these 30 high-population areas represent 81.2% of the total US population according to the US Census Bureau's 2015 estimates. The concentrated location of this significant portion of the US population makes a closer analysis of the data in these states particularly worthwhile since these are where the greatest quantity of consumers, consumer transactions, and Consumer Law attorneys can be expected to be found. This section contains, for each state and the District, similar Averages and Medians Tables as included in Section 5, but adds seven new attorney hourly points of data. Both the median metropolitan and the non-metropolitan attorney hourly rate are included along with the median attorney hourly rate in each of the five areas of the state. This allows for rate data to be localized far more than ever before.

Section 7 contains the metropolitan area tables for 46 metropolitan areas in the United States. Once again, these selections were made based chiefly on the basis of their larger population count. Together these metropolitan areas total an estimated 176,261,427 which is about 55% of the entire US population. This section contains, for each metropolitan area, similar averages and medians tables as were included in Section 5 and adds the years in practice tables to the metropolitan area analysis. This approach

allows for far more localized data reported than ever before in our Survey.

Attorneys in every state and the US Territories took part in the national survey and the results are the most comprehensive since our continuous research work began in 1999.

Consumer Law is recognized as a specialized area of law¹ dealing with issues arising from transactions involving one or more persons acting as individuals or as a family. Consumer Law, as an area of practice, typically includes bankruptcy, credit discrimination, consumer banking, warranty law, unfair and deceptive acts and practices, and more narrow topics of consumer law such as consumer protection rights enabled by specific statutes such as the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the Uniform Consumer Sales Practices Act, state and federal lemon laws, and many others.

Prior studies have shown that the factors most influencing an hourly rate are an attorney's years in practice, location of practice, and size of firm. These factors are variously surveyed and reported in this publication. More detailed location of practice data, and related customized data in relation to locale, is published in the separately available localized Reports and is available upon request.

In compiling this report, a valuable contribution was made by members of the National Association of Consumer Advocates and Consumer Law attorneys across the United States and its territories who were invited to participate during 2013 and 2014.

As previously, an on-line survey service was utilized to gather and tabulate the results with safeguards in place to limit data input to one participant per survey.

Similar studies were undertaken annually since 1999. The objective of these studies was to determine the demographics of Consumer Law private practitioners, including attorney hourly billing rate, firm size, years in

¹ As said by the Ohio 9th District Court of Appeals, "[c]onsumer law is a specialty area that is not common among many legal practitioners." *Crow v. Fred Martin Motor Co.*, 2003-Ohio-1293 (Summit App. No. 21128).

practice, concentration of practice, primary and secondary practice area prevalence, paralegal billing rates and other data.

The collected information has been condensed into this national reference to provide benchmarks to assist Consumer Law attorneys as they manage their practice and Courts as they seek to determine applicable reasonable hourly rates in cases before them.

Because of the ever increasing involvement of paralegals in the non-administrative daily aspects of a legal practice in most states, data is also presented on paralegal hourly rates.

The data is reported in various tables below, allowing the reader to consider the data from several viewpoints of selected factors or criteria. In addition, more detailed regional data with explanatory charts is available on request for any state, the geographical area of any state and the metropolitan area of any state.

Error Rate

Before this publication, a hand selected review was conducted of selected data received during this survey and compared with the data reported in the previous survey. The results indicate an error rate of less than one percent in the present survey Report, a number substantially lower than the error rate of most similar types of surveys.

Methodology

Survey results are based on the results of an on-line survey fielded during 2013 and 2014 and consisting of eleven key data questions. The survey was administered via email, ordinary mail, facsimile and telephonic invitations to a web-based questionnaire.

The entire active membership of the National Association of Consumer Advocates (except for persons employed in public employment or education) along with other known Consumer Law practitioners from around the United

States and its territories was surveyed.

Invitations to participate were also randomly sent to attorneys disclosed through internet search engine results conducted on a national level as well as randomly selected physical telephone book specialty listings where available. Invitations to participate were also randomly sent to attorneys identified through court filings in various jurisdictions and bar association directories where available.

To help practitioners understand and interpret the data below, a brief explanation of the data may help.

Section 508 Compliance

The United States Consumer Law Attorney Fee Survey is the only survey program of its type that is Section 508 Certified. This means that the survey program on which this survey runs meets all current US Federal Section 508 certification guidelines.

Section 508 is a Federal law that outlines the requirements to make online information and services accessible to users with disabilities. The government web site that outlines the requirements and helpful links regarding section 508 is located on the internet at this page: <http://www.section508.gov/>. All Federal agencies are required to use 508 certified software and technologies when available.

The Voluntary Product Accessibility Template was used in the design of the survey. VPAT's purpose is to assist Federal contracting officials and other buyers in making preliminary assessments regarding the availability of commercial "Electronic and Information Technology" products and services with features that support accessibility. The VPAT was developed by the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) in partnership with the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA).

Use of the VPAT means that this survey is built on programming that includes a text element for every non-text element of the survey web page, web pages are designed so that all information displayed with color is also

available without color, all parts of the survey are readable without having to open another window, and other techniques to enable disabled persons to fully participate in every aspect of the Fee Survey.

It is important for the Fee Survey to be able to reach the broadest range of potential respondents possible to provide the reader with the most accurate results. By including survey feedback from the disabled demographic, the Fee Survey ensures a more representative population is able to participate so that all demographics may be included in the Fee Survey results.

The Average and the Median: What it Means to You

To help practitioners understand and interpret the data in this report, a brief explanation of common data terminology in this report may be useful.

The tables in this Report use some terms whose meaning, while understood by statisticians, may not be clear to attorneys and Judges.

The “average” (sometimes called the arithmetic average) is calculated by adding the values of all responses, then dividing by the number of responses.

For example, five responses are reported, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 12. The average is calculated by adding their values ($3 + 4 + 6 + 8 + 12 = 33$), then dividing by the number of responses (5). Thus, the average is $33 / 5 = 6.6$.

The “median” has a different meaning. It is the middle value of a series of values, which is initially rank-ordered from low to high. By definition, half the numbers are greater and half are less than the median. Both mean and median values are used in this survey report as a pointer for the central area of survey results without regard to the average.

Statisticians variously agree that using the median as a statistic reduces the effect of extreme outer numbers (extremely high or low values, such as 12 in the above example). Using an average takes all numbers into accounting.

As an example of how using a median affects the above numbers, the same five responses are reported, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 12. The median is the middle number of the order of distribution, 6. Note, however, that the average of this same distribution of numbers is 6.6.

The median literally is the value in the middle. It represents the mid way point in a sequence of numbers. It is determined by lining up the values in the set of data (for example, in this fee survey that would be all of the individual fee rate responses logged in the survey) from the smallest on up to the largest. The one in the dead-center is the median number.

The median is not the average of the numbers (you don't add anything) in the list, but merely determine the center of the list. Some statisticians say that using the mean (instead of the average) gives less weight to the individual numbers that are on the outer limits of the survey responses and is more likely to direct the survey to the real center of the responses.

The median result of a set of numbers may be higher or lower than the average of that same set of numbers. Because the median number is commonly not the same as the average number, being either slightly above or below it, we are including both the average and the median results in many of the results in the survey.

Geographic Areas Defined

The data has been compiled in twelve geographic regions, including several states identified as their own region. This approach is based on three factors: the long-established Altman-Weil² regional tables, the quantity of Consumer Law attorneys that were readily identified as practicing in each state, and the geographic proximity of any one state to a nearby overall

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Altman Weil, Inc. provides management consulting services exclusively to legal organizations. Its clients include law firms, law departments, governmental legal offices and legal vendors of all sizes and types throughout North America, the U.K. and abroad. The Altman Weil website address is <http://www.altmanweil.com/>.

region.

The twelve regions for this survey are:

Atlantic:	DC, DE, NC, NJ, PA, VA, WV
California	
Florida	
Mid West:	IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, SD, WI
New York	
North East:	CT, MA, MD, ME, NH, RI, VT
Ohio	
Pacific:	AK, HI, OR, WA
South:	AL, AR, GA, KY, LA, MS, OK, SC, TN
Texas	
US Territories:	Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, US Virgin Islands
West:	AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT, WY

Since this survey work first began in 1999, the states of California, Florida, New York, and Ohio have consistently had a larger overall quantity of Consumer Law practitioners than other states. For that reason, these four states are treated in the national survey report as being their own region.

The national survey report takes a national view of the survey data and also provides data for the most populous US states and metropolitan areas, providing a more detailed, specific and slightly different analysis of the survey data for the reader's review and further analysis.

In response to requests for even more detailed data, this year's survey added new questions which obtain from each survey participant the specific area of the state and a metropolitan versus non-metropolitan designation where each participant regularly practices law. The responsive data enables an even more localized set of data to be generated for geographic areas within each of area.

Interpreting the Findings

An hourly rate may commonly be impacted by several factors,

including years of practice, firm size, practice location, degree of practice concentration, reputation, advertising, personal client relationships, and other factors. As a result, the information presented here may or may not be indicative of a particular attorney's reasonable hourly rate without further, more detailed analysis of the available data and other factors.

Caution is urged in the reader's review and use of the data provided by this report since no single attorney can truly be viewed as "typical" or "average" and the individual factors should be considered in arriving at any individual attorney's appropriate current hourly rate.

A Summary Profile of the Typical US Consumer Law Attorney is presented at the outset of this survey report in order to provide a summary profile of the average US Consumer Law attorney and their practice. It may be viewed as the average of all survey responses nationwide.

The National Average Table for All Firms by Region provides an at a glance view of the averages for respondents by the 12 survey regions. Presented in table format, it allows for quick and easy comparison of key data across several regions but is intended to only provide a summary statement of the key data and should be considered in tandem with the other data reported herein.

The Average Hourly Rates by Years in Practice Tables by Region presents an analysis of the impact that years in practice in Consumer Law has on the average attorney hourly rate. Each region has its own table of survey results with years in practice being divided in 9 time frames with less than one year and more than 31 years bracketing the outer limits at each end. One might think that longevity of practice would dictate an increasingly higher hourly rate and these tables report survey results that tests that assumption and, in some cases, variations are observed. Current economic trends outside of this survey test that assumption even further but are not considered in this survey.

The Median and Average Summaries Tables by Region are presented to give an overview of the practice of Consumer Law lawyers in each region. Note the use of both average and median results in this section, with the median used to reduce the effect of extremely high or low values in some

data. These tables also show the difference in survey results when comparing the average hourly rates and the median hourly rates, a factor considered by some statisticians to arrive at what they consider to be more neutral or accurate survey results.

Where necessary, insufficient data is represented by a dash mark instead of a numerical entry in the column.

2. Summary Profile of the Typical US Consumer Law Attorney

This section summarizes key statistics derived from the survey when viewed from a national approach. Emphasis here is on the average Consumer Law attorney in the United States without regard for any specific survey factor.

The typical Consumer Law attorney is in a small office of 4 or fewer practitioners. For the first time since the survey began over a decade ago, one state in the survey reported a majority of Consumer Law attorneys in the state were employed in larger firms, Illinois at 52%. At the same time, the Mid West region (which includes Illinois) was still dominated overall by small firm lawyers. The US Territories region was the only region that reported 100% employed 4 or fewer attorneys. At the other end of the spectrum is New York which reported that 46.2% were members of large firms employing 4 or more attorneys.

63.2% of all Consumer Law attorneys report that they practice law in a metropolitan area of 200,000 persons or more. Only 12.2% reported their practice to be in a non-metropolitan, rural area. 24.4% reported their regular practice to involve both types of population densities.

The typical Consumer Law attorney has been practicing law for 18.7 years, a slight increase over the number reported in the last survey, 17.3 years.

16.3% of all Consumer Law attorneys have been in practice 5 years or less, a slight increase from 15.4% in the last survey report, indicating the continuing slow growth of practitioners in this area of law. 58.2% have been in practice 20 years or less. Just 8.6% of all attorneys practicing any amount of Consumer Law have been in practice more than 35 years. Only 1.7% have been in practice 45 or more years.

More-experienced attorneys (those with 31 or more years of practice) make up 19.4% of survey respondents.

The region with the largest percentage of most-senior attorneys, those with 45 or more years of practice, is New York. The smallest percentage of most-senior attorneys were found in the Pacific, South and Texas regions.

62.8% of all respondents reported that their practice consists of 90-100% Consumer Law issues, a dramatic increase over the 49.2% reported in the last survey, but still well below the figure reported four years ago when 82.7% was the level reporting their practice to fall in the 90-100% range for Consumer Law issues.

The average Consumer Law practice is still supplemented in largest part by Bankruptcy work (an average of 14.5% in this report), as it has been for several years.

Following the recession of 2008-2009, hourly rates for Consumer Law practitioners went into a “holding pattern” but that is clearly over in many areas of the US, as observed in the post-recession data compiled in this Report.

The average Consumer Law attorney employs 1 paralegal (1.6 to be precise) whose hourly billable rate nationally averages \$116, a substantial increase above the last survey report of \$96. The paralegal hourly rate has been flat in the preceding four years, hovering between \$93 and \$96. The median hourly rate for a paralegal is \$125.

The average hourly rate for the typical Consumer Law attorney (regardless of all other factors) is \$361, a substantial increase from the last survey report of \$304. Like the paralegal hourly rate, the attorney hourly rate nationally has also been flat in the preceding four years, ranging from \$304 to \$307.

The median Attorney hourly rate is \$350 nationally, another substantial increase in light of the last survey report at \$300. Like the hourly rates, the median hourly rate in the last four years was essentially flat, ranging from \$293 to \$308.

The median 25% Attorney hourly rate (the point at which 25% of all survey participants reported an hourly rate lower than this number) is \$275, an increase from the last survey number reported at \$241. The median 75% Attorney hourly rate is \$425, an increase from the last survey report which was \$355 at the 75% median point. The median 95% Attorney hourly rate is \$650, a dramatic increase from the last survey, which was \$480, and only

\$443 in the survey before that.

The average attorney raised their hourly rate 19.5 months ago. 79.8% of all Consumer Law attorneys raised their hourly rates during the last 24 months and judging from the increases noted above, the change was a substantial increase after four years of essentially no change at all.

From a more historical perspective, several observations can be made when the survey data is viewed over the last decade.

Throughout the last fifteen years, small law firms have consistently dominated the area of Consumer Law, although more recently on a slightly decreasing scale.

The average number of years in practice for Consumer Law attorneys in the last decade have gone upward, from 16 to 18.7 presently, indicating that Consumer Law remains of interest to those who practice in this area of law, but also indicating that younger attorneys are less likely to focus on Consumer Law for their future.

The number of paralegals employed by the average Consumer Law firm is tied to the economy, regardless of the cost-effectiveness of the support paralegals provide to their firm. For instance, during the recession in 2009, the employment of paralegals dropped while post-recession it has exceeded its 2007 level.

Especially notable in this survey is the increase in attorney hourly rates in the last 4 years. During the recession, it was typical for hourly rates to remain flat or even drop a few percentage points. However, post-recession, hourly rates have risen an average of 120% at all levels (i.e., the average, the median, the median 25%, the median 75%, and the median 95%). And the highest increase occurred at the highest hourly rate level, those attorneys occupying the 95% median hourly rate level.

3. Region Summary Profiles

The reports which follow are highlights of the separately published data in the Region Reports, which contain further explanatory data, analyses and information particular to each regional area.

Each analysis below contains a summary profile of the typical Consumer Law attorney practice in each region with some comparisons with prior survey data where possible along with statistical and relevant observations.

Summary Profile of Atlantic Region

This section summarizes key statistics derived from the survey when viewed for the Atlantic Region. This region includes the District of Columbia, Delaware, North Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Emphasis here is on the average Consumer Law attorney in this region without regard for any specific survey factor.

The typical Atlantic Region Consumer Law attorney is in a small office of 4 or fewer practitioners with a firm size of 2.82 attorneys and has been practicing law for 20 years, slightly longer than the last survey reported.

Although 58.6% of survey participants reported that 90% or more of their practice was devoted to Consumer Law, it was a only a slight increase from last year's figure but still a substantial decrease from the pre-2010 recession figure. The numbers indicate a stabilizing but reduced quantity of attorneys devoting substantially all their time to the Consumer Law practice area.

67.81% reported that Consumer Law represented the largest area of their practice time although that is the second time in a row that the figure has been a significant decrease from the prior Report's figure. The average Consumer Law attorney in the Atlantic Region continues the trend from last year of supplementing their Consumer Law practice primarily with Bankruptcy work.

The average Atlantic Consumer Law firm employs 1.7 paralegals whose median billable hourly rate is \$125, down slightly from the last report but still above the national average. 36.7% of all Atlantic paralegals have a billable hourly rate between \$100 and \$174. In this region, 24% of Consumer Law firms report they employ no paralegal support at all, the same as the last Report.

46.8% of all Atlantic Consumer Law attorneys (regardless of all other factors) have a billable hourly rate above \$325 and the average rate was \$358, up slightly from last year's average rate.

The median Atlantic Attorney hourly rate is \$325, a decrease from last

year's \$350. The median 25% Atlantic Attorney hourly rate (the point at which 25% of all Atlantic survey participants reported an hourly rate lower than this number) is \$262. The median 75% Atlantic Attorney hourly rate is \$400. 10.3% of Atlantic survey participants reported an hourly rate higher than \$600.

13.8% of Atlantic survey participants reported an hourly rate higher than \$500.

Summary Profile of the California Region

This section summarizes key statistics derived from the survey when viewed from the California regional approach. Emphasis here is on the average Consumer Law attorney in the California without regard for any specific survey factor.

The typical California Consumer Law attorney is in a small office of 4 or fewer practitioners (70.8%, down from last year's 75.7%) and has been practicing law for 14 years (only slightly higher than the 13 years in the last Report). Although 77.4% of survey participants reported that 90% or more of their practice was devoted to Consumer Law, 84.7% reported that Consumer Law represented the largest area of their practice time with the practice supplemented in largest part by Bankruptcy work, continuing a national trend that is now nearly 5 years old.

The average California Consumer Law firm employs 1 paralegal whose median billable hourly rate is \$125 (down from the \$137 in the last Report). However, 35% of all California paralegals have a billable hourly rate between \$140 and \$225. The upward shift in billable paralegal rates, which was first observed in the last Report, continues with 10.9% of California paralegals now billing above \$174. In this region, 28.5% of Consumer Law firms report they employ no paralegal support at all.

85.9% of all California Consumer Law attorneys (regardless of all other factors) have a billable hourly rate above \$325 and the average rate was \$439, a decrease from the last Report.

The median California Attorney hourly rate is \$425, up from the last Report's \$412. The median 25% California Attorney hourly rate (the point at which 25% of all California survey participants reported an hourly rate lower than this number) is \$300. The median 75% California Attorney hourly rate is \$500. 36.4% of California survey participants reported an hourly rate higher than \$475 and 12.41% reported an hourly rate higher than \$650.

18.98% of California survey participants reported an hourly rate higher than \$500.

Summary Profile of the Florida Region

This section summarizes key statistics derived from the survey when viewed from the Florida regional approach. Emphasis here is on the average Consumer Law attorney in the Florida without regard for any specific survey factor.

The typical Florida Consumer Law attorney is in a small office of 4 or fewer practitioners (59.4%, a substantial decrease from last year's 80.9%) and has been practicing law for 18 years. Although 65.6% of survey participants reported that 90% or more of their practice was devoted to Consumer Law (a substantial increase from the 48.9% reported in the last survey), 75% reported that Consumer Law represented the largest area of their practice time with the practice supplemented in largest part by Real Estate work.

The average Florida Consumer Law firm employs 2 paralegals whose median billable hourly rate is \$125 (up from \$75 in the last Report) and 50% of all Florida paralegals have a billable hourly rate between \$125 and \$175. Just 15.6% of Florida Consumer Law firms having no paralegal support at all, the lowest of any Region in the US.

58.5% of all Florida Consumer Law attorneys (regardless of all other factors) have a billable hourly rate above \$350 and the average rate was \$382, a substantial increase from the last Report's reported average of \$317.

The median Florida Attorney hourly rate is \$350, up from the last Report's reported \$317. The median 25% Florida Attorney hourly rate (the point at which 25% of all Florida survey participants reported an hourly rate lower than this number) is \$300, up from \$250. The median 75% Florida Attorney hourly rate is \$450, up from \$374. Only 3.3% of Florida attorneys reported an hourly rate higher than \$650.

12.5% of Florida survey participants reported an hourly rate higher than \$500.

Summary Profile of the Mid West Region

This section summarizes key statistics derived from the survey when viewed from the Mid West regional approach. This region includes Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Emphasis here is on the average Consumer Law attorney in the Mid West without regard for any specific survey factor.

The typical Mid West Consumer Law attorney is in a small office of 4 or fewer practitioners (60%, down considerably from 75.2 in the last survey Report) and has been practicing law for 19 years. 70.5% of survey participants reported that 90% or more of their practice was devoted to Consumer Law, and 82.1% reported that Consumer Law represented the largest area of their practice time with the practice supplemented in largest part by Bankruptcy work.

Although 13.7% of Mid West Consumer Law firms employ no paralegal support, the average firm employs 2.2 paralegals whose median billable hourly rate is \$125 (up from last year's \$112) and 29.4% of all Mid West paralegals have a billable hourly rate between \$125 and \$140 (again an increase from last year). 32.6% of all Mid West Consumer Law attorneys (regardless of all other factors) have a billable hourly rate between \$200 and \$324 (a substantial decrease of the 51.8% of all attorneys in this same range that was reported in the last survey Report) and the average rate was \$384, up from last Report's average rate of \$276.

The median Mid West Attorney hourly rate is \$375, up from \$300 in the last Report). The median 25% Mid West Attorney hourly rate (the point at which 25% of all Mid West survey participants reported an hourly rate lower than this number) is \$300, again an increase. The median 75% Mid West Attorney hourly rate is \$450, again an increase. In the last survey Report for this region, only 9% of participants reported an hourly rate higher than \$500. That has increased also.

24.3% of Mid West survey participants reported an hourly rate higher than \$500.

Summary Profile of the New York Region

This section summarizes key statistics derived from the survey when viewed from the New York regional approach. Emphasis here is on the average Consumer Law attorney in the New York without regard for any specific survey factor.

The typical New York Consumer Law attorney is in a small office of 4 or fewer practitioners (53.8%, a decrease from the last Report's 59.4%). This is the third Report in a row showing a decrease in the quantity of small firms in the New York Region. The typical New York Consumer Law firm has been practicing law for 23.7 years. Although 53.9% of survey participants reported that 90% or more of their practice was devoted to Consumer Law, 73.1% reported that Consumer Law represented the largest area of their practice time with the practice supplemented in largest part by Bankruptcy work.

The average New York Consumer Law firm employs 3.2 paralegals whose median billable hourly rate is \$125 (up from last year's \$100 rate). However 26.8% of all New York paralegals have a billable hourly rate above \$150. In the New York region, 26.9% of the firms report using no paralegal support at all.

45.9% of all New York Consumer Law attorneys (regardless of all other factors) have a billable hourly rate above \$400 but the average rate was \$462, up substantially from the last Reports average rate of \$262.

The median New York Attorney hourly rate is \$425, up from last Report's median of \$300. The median 25% New York Attorney hourly rate (the point at which 25% of all New York survey participants reported an hourly rate lower than this number) is \$345, up again. The median 75% New York Attorney hourly rate is \$613, up again. 23% of New York survey participants reported an hourly rate higher than \$599.

34.4% of New York survey participants reported an hourly rate higher than \$500

Summary Profile of the North East Region

This section summarizes key statistics derived from the survey when viewed from the North East regional approach. This region includes Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Emphasis here is on the average Consumer Law attorney in the North East without regard for any specific survey factor.

The typical North East Consumer Law attorney is in a small office of 4 or fewer practitioners (72.7%, nearly identical to the last survey Report's 73.2%) and has been practicing law for 25.4 years. Although 68.2% of survey participants reported that 90% or more of their practice was devoted to Consumer Law, 72.7% reported that Consumer Law represented the largest area of their practice time with the practice supplemented in largest part by Bankruptcy work. This change from the last Report brings the North East Region into line with the national trend of Consumer Law attorneys who mainly supplement their Consumer Law work with Bankruptcy work.

The average North East Consumer Law firm employs 1.5 paralegals whose median billable hourly rate is \$110. Although 22.7% of firms in this region report no paralegal support at all, 22.7% of the firms using paralegals have a billable hourly rate greater than \$150.

While 31.7% of all North East Consumer Law attorneys (regardless of all other factors) have a billable hourly rate above \$524, the average rate was also \$400, up from the last Report's average rate of \$311.

The median North East Attorney hourly rate is \$400, up from the last Report's \$287. The median 25% North East Attorney hourly rate (the point at which 25% of all North East survey participants reported an hourly rate lower than this number) is \$245, an increase. The median 75% North East Attorney hourly rate is \$530, but 13.3% of North East survey participants reported an hourly rate higher than \$625.

31.7% of North East Region survey participants reported an hourly rate higher than \$500.

Summary Profile of the Ohio Region

This section summarizes key statistics derived from the survey when viewed from the Ohio regional approach. Emphasis here is on the average Consumer Law attorney in Ohio without regard for any specific survey factor.

The typical Ohio Consumer Law attorney is in a small office of 4 or fewer practitioners (75%, an increase from the last Report of 69.2%) and has been practicing law for 21.9 years. 66.7% of survey participants reported that 90% or more of their practice was devoted to Consumer Law. 75% reported that Consumer Law represented the largest area of their practice time with the practice supplemented in largest part by General Practice work.

Although 16.7% of Ohio Consumer Law firms employ no paralegal support, the average firm employs 1.8 paralegals whose median billable hourly rate is \$110 (an increase from the last Report's figure of \$98) and 33.3% of all Ohio paralegals have a billable hourly rate above \$125.

58.3% of all Ohio Consumer Law attorneys (regardless of all other factors) have a billable hourly rate between \$300 and \$450 and the average rate was \$316, a considerable increase from the last Report's average of \$264, which was only a very slight increase from the prior Report of \$263. The Ohio State Bar Association's survey report, *The Economics of Law Practice in Ohio in 2013*, at page 40, stated the average hourly rate to be slightly higher at \$341.

The median Ohio Attorney hourly rate is \$300, exactly the same as reported by the OSBA 2013 report. The median 25% Ohio Attorney hourly rate (the point at which 25% of all Ohio survey participants reported an hourly rate lower than this number) is \$245. The median 75% Ohio Attorney hourly rate is \$400. The median 95% hourly rate is \$450. The OSBA 2013 report, at page 40, lists \$225, \$300, \$425 and \$675 as the 25%, Median, 75% and 95% hourly rate points. While both survey results in all ranges are close to each other, the different data sources and participation quantities appear to yield slightly different results.

20.9% of Ohio survey participants now report an hourly rate higher than \$400, which doubles the previous Report's 10% figure.

Summary Profile of the Pacific Region

This section summarizes key statistics derived from the survey when viewed from the Pacific regional approach. This region includes Alaska, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington. Emphasis here is on the average Consumer Law attorney in the Pacific without regard for any specific survey factor.

The typical Pacific Region Consumer Law attorney is in a small office of 4 or fewer practitioners (88.9%, an increase from the last survey Report's 71.1%, which was itself an increase from the previous survey Report's 60%). The typical Pacific Consumer Law attorney has been practicing law for 15 years.

Although only 44.5% of survey participants reported that 90% or more of their practice was devoted to Consumer Law, 66.7% reported that Consumer Law represented the largest area of their practice time with the practice supplemented in largest part by Bankruptcy work.

The average Pacific Consumer Law firm employs .9 paralegal whose median billable hourly rate is \$125 (up from the last survey Report's \$100), while 50% of all Consumer Law firms in the Pacific Region have no paralegal support. In the last survey only 31.6% of Consumer Law firms in this region had no paralegal support.

While the paralegal billable rate has gone up, their use by law firms appears to have gone down. 27.9% of all Pacific Consumer Law attorneys (regardless of all other factors) have a billable hourly rate above \$325 and the average rate was \$279, down from the last survey Report's average rate of \$303.

The median Pacific Attorney hourly rate is \$275, down slightly from the last survey Report's \$300 median. The median 25% Pacific Attorney hourly rate (the point at which 25% of all Pacific survey participants reported an hourly rate lower than this number) is \$190 compared with \$215 in the last survey Report.

The median 75% Pacific Attorney hourly rate is \$340, compared with \$350 previously. Notably 16.8% of Pacific survey participants reported an

hourly rate higher than \$400.

5.6% of Pacific Region survey participants reported an hourly rate higher than \$500.

Summary Profile of the South Region

This section summarizes key statistics derived from the survey when viewed from the South regional approach. This region includes Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Tennessee. Emphasis here is on the average Consumer Law attorney in the South Region without regard for any specific survey factor.

The typical South Region Consumer Law attorney is in a small office of 4 or fewer practitioners (88%, nearly the same as in the last survey Report, which was 89.2%) and has been practicing law for 24 years (the highest years of practice number since 2007). 62% of survey participants reported that 90% or more of their practice was devoted to Consumer Law. 64% reported that Consumer Law represented the largest area of their practice time with the practice supplemented in largest part by Bankruptcy work.

The average South Region Consumer Law firm employs 1.6 paralegals whose median billable hourly rate is \$100 (up from the \$87 reported in the last survey) and 28% of all South Region paralegals have a billable rate higher than \$125. Notably, in the South Region 22% of Consumer Law firms employ no paralegal support, a significant drop from the 44.6% in the last survey Report.

40% of all South Region Consumer Law attorneys (regardless of all other factors) have a billable hourly rate above \$350 and the average rate was \$313, up from the last survey results which reported an average rate of \$267.

The median South Region Attorney hourly rate is \$300. The median 25% South Region Attorney hourly rate (the point at which 25% of all South Region survey participants reported an hourly rate lower than this number) is \$241. The median 75% South Region Attorney hourly rate is \$365. Only 10% of South Region survey participants reported an hourly rate higher than \$400. All of these median numbers are higher than the last survey Report results for the same median points. 12% of South Region survey participants reported an hourly rate higher than \$400.

6.0% of South Region survey participants reported an hourly rate higher than \$500.

Summary Profile of the Texas Region

This section summarizes key statistics derived from the survey when viewed from the Texas regional approach. Emphasis here is on the average Consumer Law attorney in the Texas without regard for any specific survey factor.

The typical Texas Consumer Law attorney is in a small office of 4 or fewer practitioners (80% of respondents this year, compared with 85.3% in the last survey Report) and has been practicing law for 16 years. 53.8% of survey participants reported that 90% or more of their practice was devoted to Consumer Law, and coincidentally 53.8% reported that Consumer Law represented the largest area of their practice time with the practice supplemented in largest part by Bankruptcy work.

The average Texas Consumer Law firm employs 1.8 paralegals whose median billable hourly rate is \$100 (higher than the last two survey Reports results) and 32.6% of all Texas paralegals have a billable hourly rate higher than \$124. In this region, 19.2% of Consumer Law firms report they employ no paralegal support at all.

67.3% of all Texas Consumer Law attorneys (regardless of all other factors) have a billable hourly rate above \$300 (in the last survey it was 66.7%) and the average hourly rate was \$328. This was the fourth survey Report where the average hourly rate increased over the prior survey result, indicating a steady upward trend in the average. However median data points are down.

The median Texas Attorney hourly rate is \$300. The median 25% Texas Attorney hourly rate (the point at which 25% of all Texas survey participants reported an hourly rate lower than this number) is \$255. The median 75% Texas Attorney hourly rate is \$366. Each of these median points is lower than the last survey Report results. 15.3% of Texas survey participants reported an hourly rate higher than \$399.

5.7% of Texas survey participants reported an hourly rate higher than \$500.

Summary Profile of the US Territories Region

This section summarizes key statistics derived from the survey when viewed from the US Territories regional approach. This region includes Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the US Virgin Islands. Emphasis here is on the average Consumer Law attorney in the US Territories Region without regard for any specific survey factor.

The typical US Territories Region Consumer Law attorney is in a small office of 4 or fewer practitioners (100%) and has been practicing law for 26 years. Survey participants reported an average of 35% of their practice was devoted to Consumer Law. Personal Injury work represented the largest area of their practice time with the practice supplemented in largest part by General Practice work.

The average US Territories Region Consumer Law firm employs 1 paralegal whose median billable hourly rate is \$62 (the same as the last survey Report) but half of all US Territories Region firms report they employ no paralegal support at all.

In US Territories Region attorneys who handle Consumer Law work (regardless of all other factors) have an average billable hourly rate of \$550. The survey results that are distinctively different from prior survey results are the longevity of practice and the higher-than-previous hourly rate so it is reasonable to assume that there is a direct relationship.

The median US Territories Region Attorney hourly rate is \$537, a significant rise from the last survey Report. The median 25% US Territories Region Attorney hourly rate (the point at which 25% of all US Territories Region survey participants reported an hourly rate lower than this number) is \$374. The median 75% US Territories Region Attorney hourly rate is \$562.

50% of US Territories Region survey participants reported an hourly rate higher than \$500.

Summary Profile of the West Region

This section summarizes key statistics derived from the survey when viewed from the West regional approach. This region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming. Emphasis here is on the average Consumer Law attorney in the West Region without regard for any specific survey factor.

The typical West Region Consumer Law attorney is in a small office of 4 or fewer practitioners (69.7%) and has been practicing law for 16 years. Although 73.8% of survey participants reported that 90% or more of their practice was devoted to Consumer Law, 84.8% reported that Consumer Law represented the largest area of their practice time with the practice supplemented in largest part by Bankruptcy work.

The average West Region Consumer Law firm employs 1.6 paralegals whose median billable hourly rate is \$125 (up from the last survey Report) and 54.4% of all West Region paralegals have a billable hourly rate above \$100, as opposed to the previous 47.4% above that hourly rate amount. In this region, 21.2% of Consumer Law firms report they employ no paralegal support at all. Since the last survey, while more attorneys report using paralegal support quantitatively, they employ fewer paralegals per firm but at a higher hourly rate.

51.5% of all West Region Consumer Law attorneys (regardless of all other factors) have a billable hourly rate between \$350 and \$400. The average rate was \$341 (a significant increase over the last survey Report average rate of \$230).

The median West Region Attorney hourly rate is \$350. The median 25% West Region Attorney hourly rate (the point at which 25% of all West Region survey participants reported an hourly rate lower than this number) is \$175. The median 75% West Region Attorney hourly rate is \$450. 12.1% of West Region survey participants reported an hourly rate higher than \$425.

-0-% of West Region survey participants reported an hourly rate higher than \$500.

4. Region Average Table for All Firms

This Table does not take into consideration the factors of the degree of concentration or years of practice, among other things, all of which will have a large impact on any particular person's hourly rate.

Region:	% of Total Survey Responses From This Region:	Small Firm % of Region (<5)	Large Firm % of Region (>5)	Small Firm Average Attorney Rate In this Region	Large Firm Average Attorney Rate In this Region	Small Firm Average Paralegal Rate In this Region	Large Firm Average Paralegal Rate In this Region
Atlantic (DC DE NC NJ PA VA WV)	15.91	70.1	29.9	341	396	107	128
California	20.75	70.8	29.2	446	423	132	137
Florida	4.85	59.4	40.6	389	373	114	123
Mid West (IA IL IN KS MI MN MO ND NE SD WI)	21.52	60.0	40.0	375	398	117	140
New York	3.94	53.8	46.2	434	494	93	137

Region:	% of Total Survey Responses From This Region:	Small Firm % of Region (<5)	Large Firm % of Region (>5)	Small Firm Average Attorney Rate In this Region	Large Firm Average Attorney Rate In this Region	Small Firm Average Paralegal Rate In this Region	Large Firm Average Paralegal Rate In this Region
North East (CT MA MD ME NH RI VT)	4.82	72.7	27.3	345	546	96	142
Ohio	3.64	75.0	25.0	317	313	71	115
Pacific (AK HI OR WA)	2.88	88.9	11.1	253	488	115	163
South (AL AR GA KY LA MS OK SC TN)	7.84	78.0	22.0	290	393	88	115
Texas	7.88	80.8	19.2	309	410	95	141
US Territories	.45	100	0	550	-	-	-
West (AZ CO ID MT NM NV UT WY)	5.43	69.7	30.3	328	370	99	129

5. Region Tables

Explanation of Tables

Firm Size	The average number of attorneys in the firm.
Median Years in Practice	The median number of years that all attorneys in this region have been in practice.
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	The percentage of practice time expended in Consumer Law (not Bankruptcy) matters.
Primary Practice Area	The area comprising the largest percentage of the practice work.
Secondary Practice Area	The largest practice area outside of Consumer Law. Where no one area dominates a dash is entered in the table.
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	The median number resulting from all survey responses.
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	The median number, expressed in months.
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	Expressed in dollars, ranges are avoided where possible in preference to a specific result.
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	Expressed in dollars, ranges are avoided where possible in preference to a specific result. Note that this is not the median."
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	25% of all survey responses are below this number, expressed in dollars.
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	Half of all survey responses are above this number and half below, expressed in dollars.
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	75% of all survey responses are below this number, expressed in dollars.
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	5% of all survey responses are above this number, expressed in dollars.

Following each Region Summaries Table is a table of attorney hourly rates by years in practice for that Region. Combined, these tables are intended to provide the reader with a quick and easy snapshot of the data as viewed in the Region approach to the data.

The second chart also provides a view of the average hourly rates for an attorney as measured simply by years in practice in that Region, but the upper chart should still also be considered in making such a determination.

Of course, the years in practice of an attorney is often deemed related to the experience level of an attorney and is also one of the traditional ways of determining the reasonableness of a particular attorney's hourly rate.

The years in practice alone may not be a sufficient basis, by itself, to consider a particular hourly rate to be reasonable in a particular case. Other factors also relate to the determination of a reasonable hourly rate in a particular case.

In this section of the Report, the only data included is from attorneys who indicated they practiced in this Region. All other data was excluded. It should be noted that case law indicates that the hourly rate for the jurisdiction at hand often applies to an attorney's hourly rate when practicing in that jurisdiction, rather than the hourly rate for their office location. Thus an attorney whose home office is in one state but who seeks recovery of fees in a different state may find themselves recovering only the rate that is applicable in the state where the case is pending.

Atlantic Region

Firm Size	2.82
Median Years in Practice	20.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	83.3
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.7
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	19.4
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	75
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	358
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	262
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	325
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	700

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	275
1 - 3	190
3 - 5	212
6 - 10	275
11 - 15	320
16 - 20	390
21 - 25	395
26 - 30	400
>31	462

California Region

Firm Size	2.6
Median Years in Practice	14.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	88.0
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy, Other
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.0
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	16.8
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	439
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	425
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	500
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	700

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	216
1-3	253
3-5	312
6-10	394
11-15	433
16-20	468
21-25	565
26-30	511
>31	545

Florida Region

Firm Size	2.8
Median Years in Practice	18.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	81.6
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Real Estate, Other
Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.0
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	24.2
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	383
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	450
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	500

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	162
1 - 3	237
3 - 5	313
6 - 10	333
11 - 15	335
16 - 20	488
21 - 25	347
26 - 30	463
>31	492

Mid West Region

Firm Size	3.1
Median Years in Practice	19.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	84.1
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.2
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	16.9
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	384
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	375
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	450
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	625

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	225
1 - 3	263
3 - 5	291
6 - 10	331
11 - 15	411
16 - 20	435
21 - 25	417
26 - 30	411
>31	413

New York Region

Firm Size	3.2
Median Years in Practice	27.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	80.0
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.8
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	22.0
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	462
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	345
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	425
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	613
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	700

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	200
1 - 3	200
3 - 5	275
6 - 10	388
11 - 15	350
16 - 20	413
21 - 25	425
26 - 30	517
>31	550

North East Region

Firm Size	2.5
Median Years in Practice	26.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	84.1
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.5
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	29.1
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	110
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	245
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	530
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	700

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	175
1 - 3	175
3 - 5	238
6 - 10	225
11 - 15	345
16 - 20	400
21 - 25	455
26 - 30	344
>31	520

Ohio Region

Firm Size	2.5
Median Years in Practice	20.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	76.7
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.8
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	24.5
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	110
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	316
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	245
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	450

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	200
1 - 3	225
3 - 5	275
6 - 10	242
11 - 15	306
16 - 20	375
21 - 25	287
26 - 30	475
>31	340

Pacific Region

Firm Size	1.6
Median Years in Practice	12.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	70.0
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	.9
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	19.1
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	279
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	190
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	275
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	340
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	525

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	113
1 - 3	142
3 - 5	188
6 - 10	250
11 - 15	275
16 - 20	375
21 - 25	381
26 - 30	413
>31	275

South Region

Firm Size	2.2
Median Years in Practice	24.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	80.8
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.6
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	21.2
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	100
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	313
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	241
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	365
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	520

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	175
1 - 3	200
3 - 5	275
6 - 10	278
11 - 15	242
16 - 20	281
21 - 25	308
26 - 30	315
>31	382

Texas Region

Firm Size	2.2
Median Years in Practice	16.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	73.1
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.8
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	18.6
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	100
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	328
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	255
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	366
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	625

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	220
1 - 3	255
3 - 5	258
6 - 10	311
11 - 15	368
16 - 20	343
21 - 25	315
26 - 30	281
>31	361

US Territories Region

Firm Size	2.0
Median Years in Practice	26.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	35.0
Primary Practice Area	Personal Injury
Secondary Practice Area	Securities
Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.0
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	36
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	62
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	550
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	375
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	537
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	562
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	640

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	100
1 - 3	142
3 - 5	175
6 - 10	337
11 - 15	390
16 - 20	405
21 - 25	438
26 - 30	465
>31	500

West Region

Firm Size	2.5
Median Years in Practice	16.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	82.9
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.6
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	16.1
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	341
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	175
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	450
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	470

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	175
1 - 3	240
3 - 5	231
6 - 10	369
11 - 15	356
16 - 20	363
21 - 25	369
26 - 30	369
>31	389

6. Selected States Summary Tables

Explanation of Tables

Firm Size	The average number of attorneys in the firm.
Median Years in Practice	The median number of years that all attorneys in this state have been in practice.
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	The percentage of practice time expended in Consumer Law (not Bankruptcy) matters.
Primary Practice Area	The area comprising the largest percentage of the practice work.
Secondary Practice Area	The largest practice area outside of Consumer Law.
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	The median number resulting from all survey responses in this state
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	The median number, expressed in months.
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	Expressed in dollars, ranges are avoided where possible in preference to a specific result.
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	Expressed in dollars, ranges are avoided where possible in preference to a specific result. Note that this is not the median.
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	25% of all survey responses are below this number, expressed in dollars.
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	Half of all survey responses are above this number and half below, expressed in dollars.
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	75% of all survey responses are below this number, expressed in dollars.
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	5% of all survey responses are above this number, expressed in dollars.

Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	Half of all survey responses in metropolitan areas of the state are above this number and half are below
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	Half of all survey responses in non-metropolitan areas of the state are above this number and half are below
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	Half of all survey responses in this area of the state are above this number and half are below
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	Half of all survey responses in this area of the state are above this number and half are below
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	Half of all survey responses in this area of the state are above this number and half are below
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	Half of all survey responses in this area of the state are above this number and half are below
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	Half of all survey responses in this area of the state are above this number and half are below

Alabama

Firm Size	2.36
Median Years in Practice	21.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.9
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.71
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	16.3
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	88
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	323
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	275
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	313
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	360
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	475
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	313
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	325
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	325
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	325
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	300
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	300
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	300

Arizona

Firm Size	2.8
Median Years in Practice	21.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	98.5
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.4
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	19.2
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	393
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	375
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	475
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	388
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	375
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	375
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	375
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	375
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	375
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	375

California

Firm Size	2.6
Median Years in Practice	14.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	88.0
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.0
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	16.8
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	439
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	425
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	500
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	700
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	425
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	450
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	475
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	400
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	400
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	425
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	425

Colorado

Firm Size	2.4
Median Years in Practice	12.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	88.8
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.25
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	12
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	117
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	341
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	275
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	325
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	375
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	450
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	325
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	350
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	350
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	300
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	350
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	350
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	300

Connecticut

Firm Size	2.1
Median Years in Practice	26.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.7
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.3
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	29.3
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	100
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	467
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	700
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	725
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	400
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	375
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	375
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	388
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	375
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	375
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	400

District of Columbia

Firm Size	3.86
Median Years in Practice	37
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	87.1
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.57
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	25.7
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	75
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	607
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	575
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	625
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	700
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	575
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	725
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of DC	575
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of DC	575
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of DC	575
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of DC	575
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of DC	575

Florida

Firm Size	2.8
Median Years in Practice	18.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	81.6
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Real Estate, Other
Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.0
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	24.2
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	383
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	450
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	500
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	350
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	350
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	350
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	350
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	350
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	350
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	350

Georgia

Firm Size	1.64
Median Years in Practice	30.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.9
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	.86
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	18.0
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	88
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	309
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	225
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	325
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	475
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	300
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	300
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	300
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	300
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	300
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	300
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	300

Illinois

Firm Size	3.63
Median Years in Practice	18.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.9
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.71
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	15.7
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	140
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	404
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	500
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	650
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	425
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	350
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	433
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	425
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	350
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	433
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	433

Indiana

Firm Size	3.63
Median Years in Practice	11.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	91.2
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	General Practice
Number of Paralegals in Firm	5.44
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	9.0
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	140
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	425
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	450
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	525
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	550
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	450
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	450
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	450
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	450
Median Attorney Rate in Easter Area of State	450
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	425
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	450

Kentucky

Firm Size	2.4
Median Years in Practice	22.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	83.6
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Domestic Relations
Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.0
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	19.8
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	110
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	298
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	225
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	275
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	325
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	500
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	275
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	300
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	350
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	325
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	325
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	325
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	300

Massachusetts

Firm Size	2.5
Median Years in Practice	19.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	80.0
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.3
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	25.2
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	110
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	370
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	200
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	275
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	500
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	700
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	525
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	250
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	250
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	225
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	400
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	250
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	263

Michigan

Firm Size	2.93
Median Years in Practice	21.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	95.0
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.1
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	20.6
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	100
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	357
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	525
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	350
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	350
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	363
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	350
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	325
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	350
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	350

Minnesota

Firm Size	3.5
Median Years in Practice	10.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	82.7
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.0
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	10.9
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	402
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	375
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	475
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	575
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	375
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	-
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	350
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	400
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	400
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	350
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	363

Missouri

Firm Size	3.75
Median Years in Practice	18.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.9
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	3.3
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	12.0
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	140
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	413
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	265
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	513
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	660
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	413
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	-
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	600
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	450
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	300
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	400
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	450

Nebraska

Firm Size	3.4
Median Years in Practice	10.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	98.0
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Criminal Law
Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.8
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	13.2
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	425
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	359
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	450
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	470
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	490
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	488
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	-
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	413
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	400
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	350
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	400
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	400

Nevada

Firm Size	2.6
Median Years in Practice	21.2
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	94.0
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	-
Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.7
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	11.0
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	365
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	325
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	375
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	390
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	430
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	375
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	-
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	475
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	375
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	475
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	375
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	475

New Jersey

Firm Size	2.89
Median Years in Practice	18.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	98.4
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.8
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	12.0
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	140
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	440
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	325
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	600
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	725
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	400
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	350
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	350
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	300
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	388
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	725
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	400

New York

Firm Size	3.2
Median Years in Practice	27.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	80.0
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.8
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	22.0
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	462
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	345
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	425
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	613
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	700
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	450
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	550
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	475
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	450
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	400
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	488
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	500

North Carolina

Firm Size	2.8
Median Years in Practice	28.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	83.4
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.5
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	14.0
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	100
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	378
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	238
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	550
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	640
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	500
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	337
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	275
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	288
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	288
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	475
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	300

Ohio

Firm Size	2.5
Median Years in Practice	20.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	76.7
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.8
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	24.5
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	110
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	316
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	245
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	450
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	300
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	300
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	333
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	333
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	300
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	325
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	300

The Ohio State Bar Association's survey report, *The Economics of Law Practice in Ohio in 2013*, at page 40, provides results in all ranges that are either identical or close to this survey on all points. This survey draws on a significantly larger participation count and it appears that the different data quantities and perhaps sources appears to yield slightly different results. Nevertheless, both survey reports provide identical results on several points and thus each survey validates the results of the other survey.

Oklahoma

Firm Size	3.7
Median Years in Practice	21.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.6
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.3
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	11.0
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	110
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	390
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	250
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	313
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	475
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	625
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	313
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	-
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	313
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	413
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	263
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	275
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	550

Oregon

Firm Size	2.0
Median Years in Practice	15.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	74.8
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	.73
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	16.9
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	140
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	273
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	190
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	250
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	525
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	263
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	313
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	263
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	550
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	550
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	250
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	488

Pennsylvania

Firm Size	2.38
Median Years in Practice	18.76
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	97.6
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.69
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	21.1
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	75
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	349
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	275
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	325
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	700
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	325
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	300
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	325
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	325
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	325
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	300
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	300

Texas

Firm Size	2.2
Median Years in Practice	16.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	73.1
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.8
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	18.6
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	100
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	328
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	255
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	366
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	625
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	313
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	325
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	350
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	300
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	350
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	350
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	350

Virginia

Firm Size	3.42
Median Years in Practice	13.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	85.8
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy, General Practice
Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.92
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	17.3
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	324
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	325
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	500
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	350
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	300
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	388
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	425
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	300
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	350
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	375

Washington

Firm Size	1.0
Median Years in Practice	12.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.5
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	General Practice
Number of Paralegals in Firm	.75
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	10.5
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	105
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	281
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	200
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	288
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	325
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	288
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	300
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	350
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	288
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	250
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	288
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	288

West Virginia

Firm Size	4.33
Median Years in Practice	17.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.7
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.3
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	23.0
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	313
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	310
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	313
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	324
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	330
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	475
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	275
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	325
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	338
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	300
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	338
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	300

Wisconsin

Firm Size	2.83
Median Years in Practice	21.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.7
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.83
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	21.0
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	100
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	387
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	325
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	387
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	425
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	525
Median Metropolitan Attorney Rate	400
Median Non-Metropolitan Attorney Rate	375
Median Attorney Rate in Northern Area of State	388
Median Attorney Rate in Southern Area of State	400
Median Attorney Rate in Eastern Area of State	400
Median Attorney Rate in Western Area of State	400
Median Attorney Rate in Central Area of State	400

7. Metropolitan Area Tables

Explanation of Table

Firm Size	The typical firm size in this city area.
Median Years in Practice	The median number of years that all attorneys in this city area have been in practice.
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	The largest percentage group, expressed as a percentage in the midpoint of all percentile ranges (90-100% is represented as 95% in the table).
Primary Practice Area	The area of law comprising the largest percentage of the practice work.
Secondary Practice Area	The largest practice area outside of the primary practice area; more than one may be listed.
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	The median number resulting from all survey responses.
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	The median number, expressed in months.
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	Expressed in dollars.
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	Expressed in dollars. Note that this is not the "median."
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	25% of all survey responses are below this number, expressed in dollars.
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	Half of all survey responses are above this number and half below, expressed in dollars.
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	75% of all survey responses are below this number, expressed in dollars.
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	5% of all survey responses are above this number, expressed in dollars.

Metropolitan areas listed in this section appear alphabetically by state and not merely by the name of the city since the name may appear in more than one state. Thus, metropolitan areas in Alabama lead the list and metropolitan areas in Wisconsin are at the end of the list.

Following each Metropolitan Area Summaries Table is a table of attorney hourly rates by years in practice for that Metropolitan Area. Combined, these tables are intended to provide the reader with a quick and easy snapshot of the data as viewed in the narrow metropolitan approach to the data. The second chart also may provide a view of the average hourly rates for an attorney as measured simply by years in practice, but the upper chart should also be considered in making such a determination.

Of course, the years in practice of an attorney is often deemed related to the experience level of an attorney and is also one of the traditional ways of determining the reasonableness of a particular attorney's hourly rate.

The years in practice alone may not be a sufficient basis, by itself, to consider a particular hourly rate to be reasonable in a particular case. Other factors also relate to the determination of a reasonable hourly rate in a particular case.

In this section of the Report, the only data included is from attorneys who indicated they practiced in their metropolitan area. All non-metropolitan area data was excluded. A non-metropolitan data report by years in practice can be made available upon request. However, case law indicates that the hourly rate for the jurisdiction at hand often applies to an attorney's hourly rate when practicing in that jurisdiction, rather than the hourly rate for their office location.

Birmingham, Alabama

Firm Size	1.0
Median Years in Practice	19.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	91.7
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	General Practice
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	18.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	71
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	75
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	321
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	270
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	313
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	325
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	340

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	225
1-3	233
3-5	275
6-10	308
11-15	320
16-20	325
21-25	333
26-30	350
>31	300

Phoenix, Arizona

Firm Size	1.0
Median Years in Practice	24.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.0
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	24.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	105
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	90
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	385
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	375
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	425

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	264
1-3	183
3-5	204
6-10	264
11-15	308
16-20	375
21-25	375
26-30	350
>31	450

Los Angeles, California

Firm Size	3.8
Median Years in Practice	10.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	91.5
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	General Practice
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	13.6
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.8
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	111
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	435
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	320
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	450
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	525
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	710

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	250
1-3	257
3-5	306
6-10	370
11-15	588
16-20	483
21-25	725
26-30	500
>31	560

San Francisco, California

Firm Size	4.0
Median Years in Practice	10.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	91.6
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	General Practice
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	13.9
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	3.2
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	131
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	138
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	438
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	320
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	425
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	525
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	720

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	250
1-3	242
3-5	338
6-10	350
11-15	588
16-20	500
21-25	725
26-30	500
31	558

Sacramento, California

Firm Size	3.5
Median Years in Practice	13.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	91.6
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	13.1
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.3
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	113
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	428
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	425
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	510
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	700

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	219
1-3	289
3-5	321
6-10	342
11-15	480
16-20	485
21-25	600
26-30	417
>31	614

Denver, Colorado

Firm Size	1.8
Median Years in Practice	12.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	80.4
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	12.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	113
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	110
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	310
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	275
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	330
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	345

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	275
1-3	314
3-5	350
6-10	350
11-15	275
16-20	335
21-25	339
26-30	344
>31	300

New Haven-Bridgeport, Connecticut

Firm Size	2.25
Median Years in Practice	25.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	90.0
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Fast Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	18.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.5
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	105
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	105
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	433
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	313
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	388
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	550
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	700

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	184
1-3	184
3-5	250
6-10	237
11-15	362
16-20	420
21-25	602
26-30	375
>31	637

Hartford, Connecticut

Firm Size	2.8
Median Years in Practice	2.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	91.8
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	20.4
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	115
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	110
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	495
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	325
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	675
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	710

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	184
1-3	184
3-5	250
6-10	237
11-15	362
16-20	420
21-25	602
26-30	375
>31	563

Jacksonville, Florida

Firm Size	3.8
Median Years in Practice	15.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.4
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	General Practice
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	22.2
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	3.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	118
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	355
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	290
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	425
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	470

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	169
1-3	248
3-5	313
6-10	300
11-15	350
16-20	475
21-25	325
26-30	484
>31	475

Miami, Florida

Firm Size	4.3
Median Years in Practice	12.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.4
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Real Estate
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	14.6
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.9
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	140
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	140
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	364
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	325
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	470

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	169
1-3	248
3-5	313
6-10	338
11-15	350
16-20	510
21-25	363
26-30	450
>31	413

Tampa, Florida

Firm Size	3.8
Median Years in Practice	11.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.8
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	General Practice
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	17.4
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	3.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	112
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	383
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	290
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	450
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	490

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	170
1-3	248
3-5	313
6-10	350
11-15	350
16-20	475
21-25	363
6-30	484
>31	488

Orlando, Florida

Firm Size	2.6
Median Years in Practice	13.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.8
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	General Practice
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	20.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	102
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	382
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	305
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	470
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	490

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	166
1-3	248
3-5	313
6-10	338
11-15	344
16-20	488
21-25	367
26-30	475
>31	488

Atlanta, Georgia

Firm Size	1.0
Median Years in Practice	34.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.8
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	General Practice
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	16.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	48
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	25
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	322
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	245
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	425
5% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	480

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	170
1-3	194
3-5	250
6-10	200
11-15	232
16-20	269
21-25	294
26-30	300
>31	358

Chicago, Illinois

Firm Size	3.8
Median Years in Practice	17.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	97.8
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	13.7
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	4.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	127
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	133
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	420
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	25
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	438
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	510
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	630

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	205
1-3	238
3-5	325
6-10	322
11-15	432
16-20	455
21-25	560
26-30	535
>31	442

Indianapolis, Indiana

Firm Size	3.91
Median Years in Practice	11.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.7
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	General Practice
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	9.3
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	5.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	140
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	140
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	407
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	315
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	450
5% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	475
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	530

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	237
1-3	325
3-5	313
6-10	325
11-15	450
16-20	450
21-25	438
26-30	432
>31	538

Lexington, Kentucky

Firm Size	2.4
Median Years in Practice	32.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	85.6
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Domestic Relations
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	20.6
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	80
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	75
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	303
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	225
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	340
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	510

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	222
1-3	227
3-5	250
6-10	314
11-15	200
16-20	319
21-25	349
26-30	357
>31	327

Baltimore, Maryland

Firm Size	2.3
Median Years in Practice	27.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	73.3
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	44.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	80
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	75
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	518
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	575
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	690

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	153
1-3	153
3-5	206
6-10	195
11-15	298
16-20	353
21-25	400
26-30	400
>31	725

Boston, Massachusetts

Firm Size	2.8
Median Years in Practice	22.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	98.3
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Securities
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	21.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	102
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	425
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	250
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	550
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	610

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	196
1-3	196
3-5	265
6-10	250
11-15	385
16-20	446
21-25	507
26-30	384
>31	593

Detroit, Michigan

Firm Size	2.9
Median Years in Practice	14.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	81.1
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	26.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	89
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	75
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	324
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	270
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	325
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	360
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	390

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	239
1-3	318
3-5	350
6-10	289
11-15	300
16-20	461
21-25	442
26-30	436
>31	345

Lansing, Michigan

Firm Size	3.3
Median Years in Practice	23.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	98.3
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	General Practice
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	20.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.5
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	100
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	110
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	385
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	310
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	450
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	525

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	239
1-3	318
3-5	350
6-10	350
11-15	300
16-20	460
21-25	441
26-30	434
>31	435

Minneapolis - St Paul, Minnesota

Firm Size	3.4
Median Years in Practice	9.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	85.0
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	10.8
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.5
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	112
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	395
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	290
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	363
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	483
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	625

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	247
1-3	288
3-5	275
6-10	350
11-15	375
16-20	525
21-25	650
26-30	449
>31	450

Columbia, Missouri

Firm Size	4.2
Median Years in Practice	18.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.7
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	17.3
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	5.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	138
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	140
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	420
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	250
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	450
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	525
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	650

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	248
1-3	289
3-5	250
6-10	350
11-15	450
16-20	513
21-25	475
26-30	451
>31	250

Kansas City, Missouri

Firm Size	3.8
Median Years in Practice	11.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.0
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	General Practice
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	10.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	3.5
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	118
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	140
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	433
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	280
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	575
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	690

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	207
1-3	241
3-5	250
6-10	350
11-15	375
16-20	550
21-25	382
26-30	376
>31	378

St Louis, Missouri

Firm Size	3.3
Median Years in Practice	16.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.8
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	22.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	3.5
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	110
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	388
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	225
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	630
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	675

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	253
1-3	295
3-5	250
6-10	350
11-15	460
16-20	550
21-25	250
26-30	461
>31	225

Omaha, Nebraska

Firm Size	2.0
Median Years in Practice	9.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.5
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	-
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	11.5
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.5
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	103
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	407
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	440
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	470

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	238
1-3	278
3-5	350
6-10	350
11-15	450
16-20	464
21-25	458
26-30	433
>31	475

Las Vegas, Nevada

Firm Size	3.0
Median Years in Practice	27.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	93.3
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	-
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	8.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	75
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	75
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	366
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	375
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	380
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	425

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	219
1-3	300
3-5	290
6-10	463
11-15	447
16-20	455
21-25	463
26-30	375
>31	475

Newark, New Jersey

Firm Size	3.3
Median Years in Practice	24.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	82.3
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	12.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	102
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	100
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	438
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	225
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	675
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	725

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	260
1-3	180
3-5	200
6-10	259
11-15	250
16-20	367
21-25	370
26-30	538
>31	534

Trenton, New Jersey

Firm Size	3.0
Median Years in Practice	21.9
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.3
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	12.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	140
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	481
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	340
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	700
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	720

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	336
1-3	234
3-5	261
6-10	338
11-15	325
16-20	478
21-25	483
26-30	596
>31	725

Albany, New York

Firm Size	2.9
Median Years in Practice	25.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	90.0
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	General Practice
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	21.6
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	96
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	100
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	428
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	325
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	575
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	720

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	200
1-3	200
3-5	275
6-10	375
11-15	350
16-20	413
21-25	575
26-30	518
>31	535

New York City, New York

Firm Size	2.9
Median Years in Practice	27.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.4
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	15.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	93
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	100
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	469
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	450
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	600
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	720

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	200
1-3	200
3-5	250
6-10	375
11-15	350
16-20	413
21-25	575
26-30	500
>31	539

Rochester, New York

Firm Size	3.7
Median Years in Practice	31.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	95.0
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	-
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	24.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	105
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	488
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	265
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	488
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	575
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	720

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	183
1-3	185
3-5	250
6-10	250
11-15	320
16-20	377
21-25	388
26-30	600
>31	475

Raleigh, North Carolina

Firm Size	3.0
Median Years in Practice	26.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	90.0
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	12.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	90
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	100
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	360
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	250
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	475
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	259
1-3	180
3-5	275
6-10	260
11-15	300
16-20	367
21-25	290
26-30	338
>31	580

Cincinnati, Ohio

Firm Size	2.5
Median Years in Practice	23.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	76.7
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	20.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.5
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	95
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	83
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	308
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	250
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	313
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	390

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	220
1-3	271
3-5	300
6-10	250
11-15	269
16-20	411
21-25	315
26-30	520
>31	361

Cleveland - Akron - Canton, Ohio

Firm Size	1.8
Median Years in Practice	30.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	83.3
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Personal Injury
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	21.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	95
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	90
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	333
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	240
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	338
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	410
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	700

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	198
1-3	175
3-5	300
6-10	238
11-15	302
16-20	325
21-25	285
26-30	475
>31	394

Columbus, Ohio

Firm Size	2.5
Median Years in Practice	16.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	94.2
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	General Practice
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	23.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.5
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	96
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	90
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	318
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	240
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	395
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	420

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	209
1-3	275
3-5	275
6-10	250
11-15	363
16-20	425
21-25	299
26-30	492
>31	318

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Firm Size	3.7
Median Years in Practice	36.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	93.3
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	-
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	8.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	3.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	518
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	325
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	550
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	625
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	700

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	199
1-3	264
3-5	362
6-10	367
11-15	275
16-20	250
21-25	406
26-30	415
>31	638

Portland, Oregon

Firm Size	1.5
Median Years in Practice	17.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	61.3
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	18.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	80
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	50
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	304
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	225
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	263
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	525

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	125
1-3	150
3-5	175
6-10	250
11-15	250
16-20	400
21-25	408
26-30	425
>31	275

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Firm Size	2.6
Median Years in Practice	11.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	92.2
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	17.4
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.5
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	105
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	368
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	270
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	325
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	475
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	700

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	325
1-3	226
3-5	250
6-10	297
11-15	334
16-20	375
21-25	381
26-30	597
>31	485

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Firm Size	2.5
Median Years in Practice	10.5
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	91.7
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Criminal Law
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	13.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	.2
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	270
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	150
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	325
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	340
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	259
1-3	154
3-5	200
6-10	325
11-15	300
16-20	368
21-25	350
26-30	356
>31	411

Providence, Rhode Island

Firm Size	1.0
Median Years in Practice	36.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	85.0
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Securities
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	26.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	97
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	100
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	600
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	525
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	550
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	640
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	710

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	200
1-3	203
3-5	276
6-10	261
11-15	400
16-20	463
21-25	526
26-30	399
>31	600

Dallas – Fort Worth, Texas

Firm Size	2.4
Median Years in Practice	16.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	93.1
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	15.3
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	96
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	100
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	365
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	290
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	425
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	625

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	196
1-3	225
3-5	350
6-10	350
11-15	492
16-20	375
21-25	307
26-30	277
>31	350

Houston, Texas

Firm Size	2.5
Median Years in Practice	16.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	89.3
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	12.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	105
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	100
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	379
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	312
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	425
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	715

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	223
1-3	225
3-5	288
6-10	350
11-15	514
16-20	384
21-25	354
26-30	325
>31	344

San Antonio, Texas

Firm Size	2.8
Median Years in Practice	11.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	94.3
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	16.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	3.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	114
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	140
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	414
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	305
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	350
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	525
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	715

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	240
1-3	275
3-5	300
6-10	350
11-15	452
16-20	550
21-25	357
26-30	321
>31	475

Richmond, Virginia

Firm Size	3.5
Median Years in Practice	25.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	96.7
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (months)	28.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	93
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	371
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	300
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	375
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	425
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	460

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	275
1-3	275
3-5	248
6-10	350
11-15	409
16-20	496
21-25	400
26-30	386
>31	450

Norfolk – Virginia Beach, Virginia

Firm Size	3.4
Median Years in Practice	25.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	95.0
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (Months)	26.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	1.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	103
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	125
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	375
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	325
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	388
75% Median Rate for All Attorneys	410
95% Median Rate for All Attorneys	475

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	275
1-3	275
3-5	260
6-10	350
11-15	394
16-20	375
21-25	350
26-30	377
>31	434

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Firm Size	3.0
Median Years in Practice	21.0
Concentration of Practice in Consumer Law	98.1
Primary Practice Area	Consumer Law
Secondary Practice Area	Bankruptcy
Last Time Rate Change Occurred (Months)	18.0
Median Number of Paralegals in Firm	2.0
Average Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	108
Median Paralegal Rate for All Paralegals	110
Average Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	383
25% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	325
Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	400
75% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	425
95% Median Attorney Rate for All Attorneys	470

Years Practicing Consumer Law	Average Attorney Hourly Rate
<1	225
1-3	318
3-5	350
6-10	300
11-15	300
16-20	425
21-25	400
26-30	400
>31	450

8. Survey Techniques

Surveys are widely considered to be important tools in any evaluation process. There are fundamentally two types of surveys: open ended questioning and closed ended questioning.

Open ended questions allow the responder to respond in any manner at all with no definite answer. Close ended questions provide a limited number of possible answers from which a response can be chosen by the responder. Because open ended questions allow for an unlimited response, they can lead to a subjective analysis and the results are almost always more difficult to interpret and quantify for analysis.

Closed ended questions, however, lend their responses to easy statistical analysis.

There are five types of closed ended questions.

A Likert-scale question allows for responses on a scale and allows a responder to state their feelings about an issue, such as strongly agree to strongly disagree. Multiple choice questions allow the responder to select from a finite number of responses. Ordinal questions ask the responder to rate things in relation to each other, such as selecting the most important to the least important responses about an issue. Categorical questions first place the responder in a category and then poses questions based on those categories, such as preceding questions with the initial inquiry of whether the responder is male or female. Numerical questions are used when the answer must be a real number.

Different types of questions are used in survey work so that different types of results analyses may be conducted, but the most common survey techniques are the numerical and the multiple choice question because of the ease with which conclusions may be derived from the raw data.

This survey used numerical questions and one multiple choice question. This allows for precise responses that can readily be cataloged and statistically interpreted.

9. Cases Employing Use of Survey Report

While Courts frequently look to an attorney's normal hourly rate in making fee determinations, Courts often will also consider market rates in the attorney's community, either in the absence of an hourly rate for the fee applicant or in addition to it.

Reasonable hourly rates are to be determined on the basis of market rates for services rendered. An "attorney's actual billing rate for comparable work is 'presumptively appropriate' to use as the market rate." *People Who Care v. Rockford Bd. of Educ., Sch. Dist. No. 205*, 90 F.3d 1307, 1310 (7th Cir. 1996). If the attorney has no actual billing rate, "the court should look to the next best evidence – the rate charged by lawyers in the community of 'reasonably comparable skill, experience and reputation.'" *Id.* (quoting *Blum v. Stenson*, 465 U.S. 886, 892, 895 n. 11, 104 S. Ct. 1541, 79 L. Ed. 2d 891 (1984)); see also *Spegon v. The Catholic Bishop of Chi.*, 175 F.3d 544, 556 (7th Cir. 1999).

Sierra Club v. Jackson, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 137217, *5, 2013 WL 5409036 (W.D. Wis. Sept. 25, 2013).

In looking the market rates in the applicant's community, Courts frequently consider and use survey data in their decision making involving fee disputes, finding it an economical and impartial means of determining contested fee issues.

Some of the cases using the *US Consumer Law Attorney Fee Survey Report* when deciding attorney fee disputes in Consumer Law cases, include the following.

Crafton v. Law Firm of Jonathan B. Levine, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 29690 (E.D. Wis. Mar. 7, 2014) ("Several courts in this District have recognized the Fee Survey as a reliable resource in determining the reasonableness of an attorney's hourly rate, particularly in conjunction with consideration of counsel's experience. See *Moreland v. Dorsey Thornton & Assocs., LLC*, No. 10-CV-867, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 54487,

2011 WL 1980282, *3 (E.D. Wis. May 20, 2011) (relying on counsel's website, which lists the attorney profiles, along with the United States Consumer Law Attorney Fee Survey in determining that the requested hourly rate was reasonable); *House v. Shapiro & Price*, No. 10-CV-842, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 38322, 2011 WL 1219247 (E.D. Wis. Mar. 30, 2011) (same); *Suleski v. Bryant Lafayette & Assocs.*, No. 09-CV-960, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 55353, 2010 WL 1904968 (E.D. Wis. May 10, 2010) (same).")

Davis v. Hollins Law, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 81024, 10-12 (E.D. Cal. June 10, 2014) Plaintiff also relies on the United States Consumer Law Attorney Fee Survey Report 2010-2011 * * * The court has reviewed the methodology underlying the Survey, and finds it credible.

Decker v. Transworld Systems, Inc., 2009 WL 2916819, N.D. Ill., 2009., September 01, 2009 (finding results in the 2007 United States Consumer Law Attorney Fee Survey Report to be supported by the Laffey Matrix).

Beach v. LVNV Funding, LLC, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 162926 (E.D. Wis. Nov. 15, 2013) ("... several courts in this District have recognized the Fee Survey as a reliable resource in determining the reasonableness of an attorney's hourly rate, particularly in conjunction with consideration of counsel's experience.")

Lockmon v. Thomas F. Farrell, P.C., No. 12-cv-02319-CMA-MEH, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 178661, 2012 WL 6590426, at *3 (D. Colo. Dec. 18, 2012) ("the Court finds that the average rates set forth in the [Consumer Law Attorney Fee] Survey are reasonable").

LaFountain, Jr v. Paul Benton Motors of North Carolina, LLC, 2010 WL 4457057, (ED NC, November 5, 2010) (Senior US District Judge James C. Fox specifically finds the *US Consumer Law Attorney Fee Survey Report* to be persuasive, after rejecting the National Law Journal's fee survey and the US Attorney's Laffey Matrix as **un**persuasive in consumer law cases: "The court does, however, find the evidence in the *United States Consumer Law Attorney Fee Survey* to be persuasive").

Ramirez v. N. Am. Asset Servs., LLC, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 54641 (C.D. Cal. Apr. 9, 2012) (stating that the argument opposing the *Survey* was “untethered” to reality in light of the *Survey* report’s resulting data).

Lindenbaum v. NCO Fin. Sys., 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 78069 (E.D. Pa. July 18, 2011) (using both the *US Consumer Law Attorney Fee Survey Report* and the US Attorney’s Laffey Matrix in determining a fee award).

Suleski v. Bryant Lafayette & Associates, 2010 WL 1904968, E.D. Wis., 2010., May 10, 2010 (“However, the United States Consumer Law Attorney Fee Survey for 2008-09 for the Midwest and California, see www.consumerlaw.org/feesurvey (last visited May 7, 2010), supports the reasonableness of the hourly rates sought by counsel in light of their experience”).

Vahidy v. Transworld Systems, Inc., 2009 WL 2916825, N.D. Ill., 2009., September 01, 2009 (finding results in the 2007 United States Consumer Law Attorney Fee Survey Report to be “supported by the Laffey Matrix”).

Bratton v. Thomas Law Firm PC, 943 F. Supp. 2d 897 (N.D. Ind. 2013) (“In *Moore v. Midland Credit Mgmt., Inc.*, No. 3:12-CV-166-TLS, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 176600, 2012 WL 6217597 (N.D. Ind. Dec. 12, 2012), this Court recently analyzed the applicability of both the *Consumer Law Attorney Fee Survey Report* and the Laffey Matrix. [904] The Court found that the Report “provides a general range for billing rates that is useful as one factor in a court’s multi-factor analysis.” 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 176600, [WL] at *4.”).

Beach v. LVNV Funding, LLC, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 162926 (E.D. Wis. Nov. 15, 2013). (“As Beach points out, several courts in this District have recognized the Fee Survey as a reliable resource in determining the reasonableness of an attorney’s hourly rate, particularly in conjunction with consideration of counsel’s experience.”).

In addition to the cases noted above, other cases using the *US Consumer Law Attorney Fee Survey Report* when deciding attorney fee disputes in Consumer Law cases include those on the following list.

Arizona

Savage v NIC, Inc., 2010 WL 2347028, D. Ariz., June 9, 2010.

Shelago v. Marshall & Ziolkowski Enterprise, LLC, 2009 WL 1097534, D.Ariz., 2009., April 22, 2009.

California

Krapf v Nationwide Credit, Inc., 2010 WL 4261444, C.D. Cal., October 21, 2010.

Broad. Music Inc. v. Antigua Cantina & Grill, LLC, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 72122 (E.D. Cal. May 20, 2013).

Brown v. Mandarich Law Group, LLP, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 47020 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 2, 2014).

Castro v. Commercial Recovery Sys., 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 33675 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 13, 2014).

Garcia v. Resurgent Capital Servs., 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 123889 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 30, 2012).

De La Torre v. Legal Recovery Law Office, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 128220 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 12, 2014).

Verdun v. I.C. Sys., 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 52238 (S.D. Cal. Apr. 14, 2014).

Delalat v. Syndicated Office Sys., 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 33756 (S.D. Cal. Jan. 23, 2014).

Crawford v. Dynamic Recovery Servs., 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 4057 (S.D. Cal. Jan. 10, 2014).

Breidenbach v. Experian, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 82093 (S.D. Cal. June 11, 2013).

Colorado

Gregg v. N.A.R., Inc., 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 32017 (D. Colo. Mar. 12, 2014).

Reichers v. Del. Asset Mgmt., LLC, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 164981 (D. Colo. Nov. 20, 2013)

Andalam v. Trizetto Group, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 159656 (D. Colo. Nov. 7, 2013).

Bock v. APIM, LLC, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 176648 (D. Colo. Nov. 7, 2013).

Peterson-Hooks v. First Integral Recovery, LLC, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 73907 (D. Colo. May 24, 2013).

Scadden v. Weinberg, Stein & Associates, LLC, No. 12-CV-02454-PAB-MEH, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 57939, 2013 WL 1751294, at *6 (D. Colo. Apr. 23, 2013).

Anderson v. Nat'l Credit Sys., 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 134268 (D. Colo. Dec. 1, 2010).

Florida

Lane v. Accredited Collection Agency, Inc., 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 58502 (M.D. Fla. Apr. 25, 2014)

Renninger v Phillips & Cohen Associates, Ltd, 2010 WL 3259417, M.D. Fla., August 18, 2010.

Sandin v. United Collection Bureau, Inc., 2009 WL 2500408, S.D. Fla., 2009., August 14, 2009.

Georgia

Hebert v. Wallet Recovery Ltd., 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 57012 (M.D. Ga. Apr. 24, 2014).

Idaho

Lecoultre v. Takhar Collection Servs., 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 96443 (D. Idaho July 9, 2013).

Indiana

Moore v. Midland Credit Mgmt., 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 176600 (N.D. Ind. Dec. 12, 2012)

Nevada

Feely v. Carrington Mortg. Serve., LLC, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 161626 (D. Nev. Nov. 14, 2014).

Schneider v. SSA, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 119553 (D. Nev. Aug. 27, 2014).

Ohio

Simpson v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec., 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 10875 (S.D. Ohio Jan. 29, 2014).

Coy v. Astrue, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 50328 (N.D. Ohio Apr. 8, 2013).

Hakkarainen v. Astrue, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 188466 (N.D. Ohio June 27, 2012).

Paris v Regent Asset Management Solutions, Inc., 2010 WL 3910212, S.D. Ohio, October 5, 2010.

Wamsley v. Kemp, 2010 WL 1610734, S.D. Ohio, 2010, April 20, 2010 (using both the national survey and the regional survey reports).

Livingston v. Cavalry Portfolio Services, LLC, 2009 WL 4724268, N.D. Ohio, 2009, December 02, 2009.

Tennessee

McCutcheon v. Finkelstein Kern Steinberg & Cunningham, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 121460 (M.D. Tenn. Aug. 27, 2013)

Texas

Szijjarto v. Farias, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 17406 (S.D. Tex. Feb. 12, 2014).

West Virginia

Pearson v. Prichard's Excavating & Mobile Home Transp., 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 16089 (S.D. W.Va. Feb. 10, 2014).

Harmon v. Virtuoso Sourcing Group LLC, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 129770 (S.D. W. Va. Sept. 12, 2012).

10. Cases on Use of Survey Data

Additional considerations in using fee surveys may be relevant to a court's consideration in a particular case, including the following concepts drawn from the illustrative cases below.

In determining whether a requested hourly rate is appropriate, a court may look not only to past awards within the district, but the other submissions offered in support of the award such as surveys and affidavits. See, *Waldo v. Consumers Energy Co.*, 726 F.3d 802, 2013 U.S. App. LEXIS 16555, at *37, 2013 WL 4038747 at *12 (6th Cir. Aug. 9, 2013); also see *Sykes v. Anderson*, 419 Fed. Appx. 615, 618, 2011 U.S.App. LEXIS 7699 (6th Cir. 2011) ("[t]he appropriate rate . . . is not necessarily the exact value sought by a particular firm, but is rather the market rate in the venue sufficient to encourage competent representation.").

While different attorney fee surveys may exist for the Court's consideration, the question may be which "fee survey better served the purpose of assessing the skills, experience and reputation of counsel" in a particular case. *Strohl Systems Group, Inc. v. Fallon*, E.D.Pa., 2007, 2007 WL 4323008.

Moreover, a fee survey may be approved as probative evidence of the reasonableness of an hourly rate. *Taylor v. USF-Red Star Express, Inc.*, 2005 WL 555371, E.D.Pa., 2005, March 8, 2005.

However, the results of an attorney fee survey may be merely a starting point, a piece of evidence that still should be shown to apply in a particular case. See, *Ray v. Secretary of Dept. Of Health and Human Services*, 2006 WL 1006587, Fed.Cl., 2006, March 30, 2006.

The cost of performing a fee survey may be recoverable in some instances.

It is a matter of first impression that a fee applicant would hire another attorney to conduct a survey on her behalf. We cannot forget that Luessenhop has the burden of proving that her Fee Application is based upon prevailing market rates and that she

has the right to present evidence to support the rate she believes to be prevailing. Here, where we are required to weigh the presumptive prevailing market rate district wide, further pondering the geographical distance and economic disparities between the Plattsburgh and Albany communities and Schneider's relatively limited access to those attorneys who practice civil rights litigation in Albany, we acknowledge that Luessenhop was left with little option but to hire Mishler, an Albany attorney, to conduct a more comprehensive survey on her behalf. Luessenhop seeks \$787.50 for Mishler's endeavors, which appears to be modest. Considering the amount of time this Court spent to conduct a similar survey, we do not find this amount to be unreasonable and will award it.

Luessenhop v. Clinton County, N.Y. 558 F.Supp.2d 247, 272 (N.D.N.Y.,2008).

11. Recommendations for Future Survey Data

As always, we welcome your suggestions for improvements to the survey and this Report as we continue to gather useful information in the future.

Please email your suggestions to Ron@TheLawCoach.com or you may mail them to Ronald L. Burdge, Esq., 2299 Miamisburg Centerville Road, Dayton, Ohio 45459-3817.

11. Survey Questions

The following pages contain the survey questions and possible answers to each question.

US Consumer Law Attorney Fee Survey

1. Below is a list of practice areas. Please select the practice area that represents the largest percentage of your practice time.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Bankruptcy | <input type="radio"/> Estate Planning, Probate, Wills | <input type="radio"/> Securities |
| <input type="radio"/> Consumer Law | <input type="radio"/> General Practice | <input type="radio"/> Workers Compensation |
| <input type="radio"/> Criminal Law | <input type="radio"/> Medical Malpractice | <input type="radio"/> Other |
| <input type="radio"/> Domestic Relations | <input type="radio"/> Personal Injury | |
| <input type="radio"/> Employment Law | <input type="radio"/> Real Estate | |

2. What percentage of your practice is devoted to Consumer Law?

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 100 | <input type="radio"/> 60 | <input type="radio"/> 20 |
| <input type="radio"/> 90 | <input type="radio"/> 50 | <input type="radio"/> 10 |
| <input type="radio"/> 80 | <input type="radio"/> 40 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| <input type="radio"/> 70 | <input type="radio"/> 30 | <input type="radio"/> 0 |

3. How many attorneys are in your law firm?

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 5 or more |
| <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | |

US Consumer Law Attorney Fee Survey		
4. How many years have you been practicing law?		
<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 16	<input type="radio"/> 31
<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 17	<input type="radio"/> 32
<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 18	<input type="radio"/> 33
<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 19	<input type="radio"/> 34
<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 20	<input type="radio"/> 35
<input type="radio"/> 6	<input type="radio"/> 21	<input type="radio"/> 36
<input type="radio"/> 7	<input type="radio"/> 22	<input type="radio"/> 37
<input type="radio"/> 8	<input type="radio"/> 23	<input type="radio"/> 38
<input type="radio"/> 9	<input type="radio"/> 24	<input type="radio"/> 39
<input type="radio"/> 10	<input type="radio"/> 25	<input type="radio"/> 40
<input type="radio"/> 11	<input type="radio"/> 26	<input type="radio"/> 41
<input type="radio"/> 12	<input type="radio"/> 27	<input type="radio"/> 42
<input type="radio"/> 13	<input type="radio"/> 28	<input type="radio"/> 43
<input type="radio"/> 14	<input type="radio"/> 29	<input type="radio"/> 44
<input type="radio"/> 15	<input type="radio"/> 30	<input type="radio"/> 45 or more
5. What is your (attorney) standard billable hourly rate?		
<input type="radio"/> 0	<input type="radio"/> 250	<input type="radio"/> 500
<input type="radio"/> 25	<input type="radio"/> 275	<input type="radio"/> 525
<input type="radio"/> 50	<input type="radio"/> 300	<input type="radio"/> 550
<input type="radio"/> 75	<input type="radio"/> 325	<input type="radio"/> 575
<input type="radio"/> 100	<input type="radio"/> 350	<input type="radio"/> 600
<input type="radio"/> 125	<input type="radio"/> 375	<input type="radio"/> 625
<input type="radio"/> 150	<input type="radio"/> 400	<input type="radio"/> 650
<input type="radio"/> 175	<input type="radio"/> 425	<input type="radio"/> 675
<input type="radio"/> 200	<input type="radio"/> 450	<input type="radio"/> 700
<input type="radio"/> 225	<input type="radio"/> 475	<input type="radio"/> 725 or more
6. How many full or part time paralegal or law clerk or legal assistants do you employ?		
<input type="radio"/> 0	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 4
<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 5 or more

US Consumer Law Attorney Fee Survey

7. What is your average paralegal or law clerk or legal assistant standard billable hourly rate?

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> n/a | <input type="radio"/> 100 | <input type="radio"/> 190 |
| <input type="radio"/> 0 | <input type="radio"/> 110 | <input type="radio"/> 200 |
| <input type="radio"/> 25 | <input type="radio"/> 125 | <input type="radio"/> 210 |
| <input type="radio"/> 50 | <input type="radio"/> 140 | <input type="radio"/> 225 |
| <input type="radio"/> 75 | <input type="radio"/> 150 | <input type="radio"/> 240 |
| <input type="radio"/> 90 | <input type="radio"/> 175 | <input type="radio"/> 250 or more |

8. How long ago did you change your billable hourly rate?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> n/a | <input type="radio"/> 1 1/2 years | <input type="radio"/> 3 1/2 years |
| <input type="radio"/> 0 | <input type="radio"/> 2 years | <input type="radio"/> 4 years |
| <input type="radio"/> 1/2 year | <input type="radio"/> 2 1/2 years | <input type="radio"/> 4 1/2 years |
| <input type="radio"/> 1 year | <input type="radio"/> 3 years | <input type="radio"/> 5 years or more |

US Consumer Law Attorney Fee Survey

9. In what jurisdiction do you practice law? If you practice in more than one jurisdiction and your hourly rate is the same in all jurisdictions, then you may check more than one box below. If your rate differs in different jurisdictions, then you should complete this survey and then submit a new survey response for each additional jurisdiction where you practice.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> Maryland | <input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rico |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas | <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> Rhode Island |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California | <input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> South Carolina |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> Mississippi | <input type="checkbox"/> South Dakota |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut | <input type="checkbox"/> Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delaware | <input type="checkbox"/> Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> Utah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Georgia | <input type="checkbox"/> Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> Vermont |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> Virgin Islands US |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> New York | <input type="checkbox"/> West Virginia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> North Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> Wyoming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky | <input type="checkbox"/> Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington DC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana | <input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma | |

10. In what geographical area of your state do you regularly practice? If more than one area, mark all that apply.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> North | <input type="checkbox"/> East | <input type="checkbox"/> Central |
| <input type="checkbox"/> South | <input type="checkbox"/> West | |

11. Do you regularly practice in a metropolitan area of more than 200,000 persons or less than 200,000 persons?

- ☐ Both more and less
☐ More than 200,000
☐ Less than 200,000

12. About the Editor

Ronald L. Burdge is an attorney and the founder of Burdge Law Office Co LPA in Dayton, Ohio. Mr. Burdge is in private practice in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana and elsewhere by *pro hac* admission, and is a nationally known Consumer Law attorney. For over a decade, Mr. Burdge has testified as an expert witness on Consumer Law and Attorney Fee issues in numerous state and federal courts. He is a member of the Total Practice Management Association and numerous professional associations.

He has authored numerous articles and lectured widely on Attorney Fee issues and Consumer Law and Consumer Trial Practice, and is a member of the American Society of Legal Writers and the Legal Writing Institute. Mr. Burdge has also lectured widely at national and state Consumer Protection Law seminars before attorneys, judges, and both public and business groups, and has testified before the Ohio Legislature and its committees on Consumer Law issues.

He has served as Board Examiner for the National Board of Trial Advocacy and has extensive Consumer Law trial and appellate experience in individual and class action cases involving lenders, retail sales practices, defective products, and warranty litigation. Since 2004, he remains the only Consumer Law attorney in Ohio who has been named to Ohio Super Lawyer status by *Law & Politics* Magazine and Thomson Reuters, and whose practice is entirely devoted to Consumer Law work for consumers only. Thomson Reuters is the world's leading source of intelligent information for businesses and professionals. In 2004, he was named Trial Lawyer of the Year by the National Association of Consumer Advocates and in 2010 he was elected to the Board of the National Association of Consumer Advocates.

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